



THE YOUNG HICKORY NEWS

Fall 2014

Volume 15, Issue 2

SUMMER CAMP EXPLORATIONS

by Sara Walker

Chores, wagons, owls...oh, my! Those are just a few topics that we covered at our *Backcountry Explorers Summer Camp*! Speaking of covered, the campers even got to learn inside of their very own covered wagon! A true educational journey!

The first day of camp included an introduction to wagon travel and a fun hands-on kitchen and garden program presented by Linda and Leila! The campers learned how to make an aromatic blend of spices called "kitchen pepper" and even got to take home a sample! Linda taught the campers about the many vegetables and herbs found in a kitchen garden. The campers loved decorating wooden spoons and "planting" them in the garden. Be sure to stop by the site to see their spoons on display!

On the second day, we transitioned into exploring the Catawba culture by painting redware and getting muddy with Mr. Robert at the daubing station!

Camp came to a close on Wednesday, when the campers worked together to make a skit combining all three topics together: settlers, Catawbans and animals! We saved the best for last by having my sister Emily, an educator and naturalist from Chimney Rock, present an unforgettable animal program! From Grady the groundhog to Gremlin the great-horned owl, it surely was a hoot of a program!

Big thanks to the staff and volunteers who made camp such a memorable experience!



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Pres. James K. Polk
S.H.S. Staff:

Site Manager II
Scott Warren

Interpreter II
Sara Walker

Maintenance
Mechanic II
Robert Dreher

Staff Interpreters
Sarah Allen
Rochelle Beard

Site Hours:
Tuesday-Saturday
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Closed Sunday &
Monday

State Holidays
Site Closed
September 1st
November 11, 27, 28

Free Admission

*The Young Hickory News is
a semiannual publication
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Support Fund, Inc.*

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Hello everyone!
Welcome to
another
edition of *The
Young Hickory
News*.
I hope this edition
finds you all
healthy and happy.

Whew! Wow! Huzzah! These are words that express eagerness, excitement and enthusiasm. Those are our feelings right now as we — as a museum, staff and Polk family — embark on the newest chapter of our Polk story.

By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be on the brink of beginning our much anticipated repair and renovation (R&R) project here at the museum. This R&R project has been in the planning stages for more than a year and we are set to kick it off on Tuesday, September 2!

What an exciting time! The museum building, which was built in the mid-1960s, has seen some minor upgrades and improvements over the years. But this project will certainly reflect our vision of what a presidential site should look like.

As part of this project, we will install new lighting in the museum, bring our restrooms up to current ADA standards, raise the ceiling in the museum area and give the lobby area a much needed and improved look and feel — one befitting our 11th president, James K. Polk. What an exciting time!

Although the museum area will have limited access for our visitors, we will still offer our daily tours of the historic cabins and we will continue to offer some exciting programming during this time.

We are happy to announce a fundraising partnership with Auto Bell car wash. Through August 30, we will sell car wash vouchers good for one car wash at any area Auto Bell car wash location. Auto Bell will receive half and we will keep the other half. Tickets go for \$15.99 and are available from any staff member during normal museum hours.

We also have many exciting events planned for the fall with the Sarah Polk program in September, a graveyard program in October and the President Polk Birthday/Grand Reopening celebration slated for November. More information on these programs can be found on page 7 and on our websites at www.polk.nchistoricsites.org or at www.presjpolk.com. Thank you for your continued support! Keep History Alive!

All the best,

Scott

P.S. I hope you will take time to join the membership or renew your existing membership. Your membership dollars go a long way toward financing our programming, maintenance and special projects. Please take time to fill out the membership form and mail it in today.

HELP SAVE THIRD GRADE HISTORY FIELD TRIPS!

Our site, alongside five other Charlotte historic sites, provide invaluable field trips to all third graders (11,500 students) in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools each year. These educational field trips meet state curriculum requirements and provide students with an engaging opportunity to learn about the history of their Charlotte-Mecklenburg community. Also, they are the only free history field trips offered to CMS students! Our partnering sites who also offer these wonderful field trips are the Charlotte Museum of History, Historic Rosedale, Historic Latta Plantation, Mint Hill Historical Village and Rural Hill.

For the past several years, these memorable field trips were mostly funded through grants from the Arts & Science Council. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints, funding is no longer available. Now we are reaching out to all of our supporters and asking for help to keep this important educational experience alive!

Why are these field trips important? Students who take field trips demonstrate greater factual recall of historical events and also show an improvement in critical thinking skills. These effects are even greater for students in schools with more than 50 percent free and reduced lunch rates. As a whole, field trips greatly enhance the learning experience for students on every level. Most importantly, these students' knowledge of our past is critical to our community's future.

What are the costs? We must raise \$75,000 by September 30 (\$25,000 for transportation and \$50,000 for program materials) in order to fund the history field trips this school year for 11,500 students. If you would like to help make a difference in the lives of these children and to the future of our community, please consider donating to this project.

By supporting our history, you can help shape the future!!

Donation Information:

Tax deductible donations can be made directly to the Charlotte Regional History Consortium (501c3) and will be designated only for this project. You can also give online by visiting the project on the Arts and Science Council's Power2Give website at <http://power2give.org/charlotte> and select "Save 3rd Grade History Field Trips!"

The campaign ends September 30, so please give today!

Contact Information:

Scott Warren

Site Manager, President James K. Polk State Historic Site

Scott.warren@ncdcr.gov. 704-889-7145

WHAT'S COOKIN'.....ABROAD?

by Linda Beverly

Carolyn Dilda and I, both members of the Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley, spent three weeks in May and June visiting England and Scotland. The primary reason for our trip was to attend a Georgian Cookery Class by noted food historian Ivan Day.

In the quaint Lake District village of Shap, England, they first discussed the history of British foods and cookery books, using Mr. Day's very comprehensive library of original Georgian recipe books. Many of these cookery books were available to the colonists and are the ones used by the Cooking Guild as they practice 18th century cooking techniques at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site.

Then it was on to preparing the meals using basic skills such as roasting on a spit, using different pie crusts, and using 18th century cooking gadgets. The menus included roast loin of pork with onions, sweet lamb pie, flummery molds and pineapple ice cream. Before and after our class, we visited many historical sites and museums. Kitchens were high on our list to visit, and they ranged from a small fire pit in the middle of a turf dwelling to the gleaming displays in grand houses. Many of the sites had specific hands-on programs for children, which gave us great ideas to bring back with us!

All of this, combined with the breathtaking beauty of the glacier-carved mountains and valleys with the scattered remnants of ancient standing stones and castle ruins, resulted in an unforgettable experience.



Ivan Day demonstrates 18th century roasting techniques.



Carolyn on tour of a Highland blackhouse.

VOLUNTEER INTEREST?

Share your love of history by becoming a volunteer at the President James K. Polk State Historic Site! If you are passionate about sharing your talents and time with the community, please consider joining our wonderful Volunteer Program. Training is provided and new orientation programs are offered twice a year.

Exciting opportunities are available in the following areas:

- Historical interpretation
- Special events
- Educational program development

Interested?

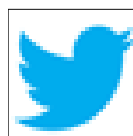
Contact Sara Walker, Historic Interpreter II,
sara.walker@ncdcr.gov or 704-889-7145.

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

<http://www.nchistoricsites.org/polk>
Polk Support Group website!
<http://www.presjkipolk.com/>



Like us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/JamesKPolkSHS



Follow us on Twitter!
www.Twitter.com/JKPolkSHS

NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

by Sheila Osaka

As we roll through summer, the Site's Support Group continues to infuse added value into memberships. Gift shop discounts for members are now available with Presidential level members receiving a discount of \$10 on a purchase of \$50 or more while Speaker of the House members qualify for \$5 off of a \$50 purchase. Discounts for summer programs and other events are available for all members. Membership pricing is now slashed by 25 percent for residents of Pineville and 50 percent for students. Join now at the Presidential level and receive a book of choice from our gift shop. As always, the James K. Polk State Historic Site Support Group looks forward to partnering with you as we continue to preserve the legacy of America's finest one term president.

CONGRATULATIONS, CAROLYN DILDA!



Carolyn Dilda, co-founder of the Historic Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley, was recently selected as the new chair of the The Association for Living History, Farm and Agricultural Museums (ALHFAM) Foodways Committee. ALFHAM is an international organization that serves those involved in living historical farms, agricultural museums and outdoor museums of history and folk life. Carolyn has been involved with historic foodways interpretation and has practiced traditional open hearth cooking for more than 25 years.

INTERNSHIP REFLECTIONS

By Renee Kent

My name is Renee Kent and I had the great pleasure of interning at the Polk Site this summer. I am a rising senior at Queens University of Charlotte. My time at Polk has been educational and entertaining. Being a tour guide, and even just working the gift shop, you learn so much. People from all over the world come through this site! Also, the projects I've worked on this summer have been really interesting. Our site is working with the Wells Fargo Museum on an exhibit and I've been doing a lot of the research for it. This research has allowed me to expand my knowledge of the time period and to fine tune my research skills. I've also been working on a photography project with Sarah Allen. We have sorted through old site photos and archived them. It's so interesting to see how much things have changed! As a whole, this experience is something that will stay with me my whole life no matter what I end up doing!

BACKCOUNTRY KITCHEN TOUR

by Sara Walker

How would you do in a backcountry kitchen? Want to try your luck? Come and join us on Saturday, August 16 as Leila Merims, a longstanding member of the Historic Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley, leads a special kitchen tour. Standard colonial chores will be covered, such as hauling water, grinding spices, preparing for a fire and making a simple dish. Sorry, no tasting!

Every pair of hands counted on a farm...can you handle it?

Date: Saturday, August 16

Time: 10:15 - 11 a.m.

Fee: \$5 for adults, \$2 for children

**Registration: day of program (must be in-person).*

*We advise arriving no later than 10 a.m. because spots will fill up quickly!**



AUTO BELL CARWASH TICKETS: A SITE FUNDRAISER

by Sheila Osaka

Would you like to clean your horseless carriage and get a good feeling in your heart at the same time? (Disclaimer: Carriage wash attendants may be dressed in modern attire.)

The site is partnering with Auto Bell to sell tickets for one full-service car wash at any local Auto Bell car wash. A portion of the proceeds from the sell of these tickets will go toward the educational programming at the museum. Tickets are \$15.99 and can be bought from any of the staff members.

Tickets are only available through the month of August, so buy yours today!



SPECIAL EVENTS FOR 2014

September 6 Sarah Polk: A Wife, A First Lady This program will celebrate the 211th birthday of First Lady Sarah Polk! Catherine Halford, a UNCC graduate student, will be on hand to explore the intellectual and devoted First Lady. Sarah Polk herself might even be in attendance to meet and greet her supporters! **Hours:** 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. **Admission:** Free. *Please note this program is not being held at the site due to upcoming renovations!*
Program Location: The Hut, 413 Johnston Drive Pineville, NC 28134

October 11 Matters of Grave Importance Take a glimpse into the past, present and future of local cemetery history. Jason Harpe, a historic cemetery specialist, will guide visitors through a first-hand look at the Polk family cemetery and the importance behind the preservation of this historic landmark. **Program Location:** Participants will meet in the museum parking lot.
Hours: 10 a.m. - noon **Admission:** Free.

November 15 Grand Reopening Celebration: Polk Revisits Pineville

Come and celebrate with us as we reveal our newly renovated visitor center to the public! Bring the whole family to take part in an array of fun activities. Shuck corn, dance a folksy jig and snap pictures with none other than President Polk himself! You won't want to miss out on this grand celebration! **Hours:** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. **Admission:** Free.

September through May: Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley Demonstrations
 On the second and fourth Thursday of every month the Historical Cooking Guild of the Catawba Valley will be using the kitchen house for cooking demonstrations. Come watch as the group cooks up elaborate meals over an open hearth.
Hours: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. **Admission:** Free.

Polk Memorial Support Fund, Inc.
*** Application for Membership**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Telephone (h) _____ (w) _____ E-mail _____

Please check membership category:

☐ Congressman (\$20/year) ☐ Governor (\$25/year) ☐ Speaker of the House (\$50/year)

☐ President (\$100) ☐ Memorial/Honor Gift Amount \$ _____

Name of Honoree _____

Make Checks payable to Polk Memorial Support Fund, Inc. and mail to PO Box 475, Pineville NC 28134

**The President James K. Polk
State Historic Site**

12031 Lancaster Highway
Post Office Box 475
Pineville, NC 28134

Phone: 704-889-7145

We're on the Web!

www.polk.nchistoricsites.org
www.presjkpolk.com



The mission of Shopformuseums.com mission is to be the primary source of online fundraising for museums and related organizations. Accomplished through convenience and exclusive discounts, the site gives people the opportunity to generate donations for the museum of their choice when shopping online.

There are no extra steps and no added costs. Just go to www.shopformuseums.com, choose "The President James K. Polk SHS" and start shopping! There are more than 400 retailers partnered with the site.